

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
September 20, 2016

**MODERATOR**

The Rev. Dr. Trey Little

**ASSOCIATE PASTORS**

The Rev. Chris French

**STAFF**

Hardie Morgan, Executive Director of Ministry Support

Sabrina Hergert, Director Mission Partners

Susan McElroy, Pastor's Executive Assistant

Broun Stacy

Erick Kirby

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING in the Library on September 20, 2016 at 7 p.m.

**ELDERS PRESENT:** Okey Akwari, Ronnie Braden, Russ Chase, Paul Craig, Jerry Hanlon, Morris Harper, Stephanie Husmann, Debbie Kaplan, Kevin Kiniry, Matt Kiker, Doug Lunn, Scott Maham, Myrna Maldonado, Keith McElroy, Kerry Moore, John Musgrove, Keeke Russo, Lisa Schwartz, Ted Teinert, Mandy Weber

**ELDERS EXCUSED:** Deb Castillo, Monika Frazelle, Jenny Gottschalk, Dan Malaguilla, John Meloy, John Murphy, Jim Weatherall

**CALL TO ORDER, OPENING PRAYER AND REFLECTION:** The Session Packet was provided to the Session with an agenda for this meeting, the minutes of the prior Session meeting, committee reports, and other data for the Session's review and analysis.

The clerk took roll and declared a quorum.

The Rev. Dr. Little called the meeting to order. Matt Kiker opened the meeting with prayer.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** Motion was made for approval of the Consent Agenda as stated below:

- Approval of the minutes of the August 16, 2016 stated Session Meeting.
- Approval of Clerk's Report for September 20, 2016.
- Approval of dissolution of Associate Pastor call between The Rev. Dr. Michael Fry and Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston.

- Approval of Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 10:05 a.m. to address the following matters:
  - Approval of changes to The Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston Certificate of Formation.
  - Approval of changes to The Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston Bylaws
  - Election of Elder Class of 2019
  - Election of Deacon Class of 2019
  - Election of Grace Presbyterian Endowment Fund Trustee Class of 2019
  - Election of at-large member of the Church Officer Nominating Committee Class of 2019
  - Approval of formal dissolution of call between The Rev. Dr. Michael Fry and Grace Presbyterian Church due to Rev. Fry's retirement.
  - Any other matters that may properly come before the meeting.

There was a second and the motion passed.

#### **NARRATIVE ON THE HEALTH OF MISSION AND MINISTRY:**

The Rev. Dr. Little asked Session to contemplate how Grace is helping children and others new to the Christian faith to discover Jesus and grow in their understanding and love of God's Word.

#### **CONVERSATIONS ABOUT KEY STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Hardie Morgan and Russ Chase presented the Ministry Support Final Budget Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 and requested Session to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Session teams and staff of Grace with assistance from the Grace Finance staff have developed the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 as outlined in the attached presentation.

WHEREAS the Grace Ministry Support Team has reviewed said budget and recommended it for approval by the Session.

THEREFORE it is now hereby resolved that said budget for the fiscal year ending June30, 2017.

Session approved this motion.

- The Rev. Dr. Little presented a Facilities Improvement Team (“FIT”) report to Session. The capital campaign will not kick off until late in 2017.
- The Rev. French demonstrated how the new member process on the website can be used to instantly add a request to join the church.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Item 1: Approval of endorsement of Erick Kirby (High School Ministries Associate) as candidate for ECO ordination process**

##### Resolution:

WHEREAS Erick Kirby has requested sponsorship by the Grace Congregation of his candidate for ordained ministry in ECO, we have confirmed Erick’s aptitude, calling, gifting and fruitfulness in ministry, his spiritual and personal maturity and his basic biblical and theological competency.

Therefore it is RESOLVED that the Grace Congregation sponsor Erick’s candidacy for ordained ministry in ECO and as part of sponsorship.

It is RESOLVED FURTHER that Grace support him financially and spiritually and encourage his growth in ministry.

It is RESOLVED FURTHER that the Session or its designee is to review and give input to the personal plan for his growth that is developed by the Presbytery Ministry Ordination Team.

It is RESOLVED FURTHER that Kevin Kiniry is designated as the liaison between Erick and the Session to ensure that the Grace congregation continually engages with Erick as he goes through the ordination process.

This motion was made, seconded, and approved.

#### **Item 2: Receipt of Church Officer Nominating Committee report**

Report was provided orally by Scott Maham.

#### **Item 3: Approval of changes to Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston Certificate of Formation**

##### Resolution:

WHEREAS the Grace Ministry Support Team has, with the assistance of outside counsel, drafted the Restated and Amended Certificate of Formation of The Grace

Presbyterian Church of Houston and has recommended its approval by the Grace Session.

Therefore it is RESOLVED, that the Restated and Amended Certificate of Formation of The Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston is approved and shall be presented to the congregation of Grace for approval.

It is RESOLVED FURTHER, that the request for Congregation approval shall take the form of the following resolution:

*RESOLVED, that the Restated and Amended Certificate of Formation of The Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston, copies of which have been made available to the Congregation for review and consideration, is hereby adopted.*

*RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Session or their designee is authorized and directed to take any action necessary to effectuate the foregoing resolution, including, but not limited to, filing the Restated and Amended Certificate of Formation of The Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston with the Texas Secretary of State or other appropriate government agency.*

This motion received a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Session and will be presented to the congregation at the congregational meeting on September 25, 2016.

#### **Item 4: Approval of changes to Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston Bylaws**

Resolution:

WHEREAS the Grace Ministry Support Team has, with the assistance of outside counsel, drafted the Amended Bylaws of The Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston and has recommended its approval by the Grace Session.

Therefore it is RESOLVED, that the Amended Bylaws of The Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston are approved and shall be presented to the congregation of Grace for approval.

It is RESOLVED FURTHER, that the request for Congregation approval shall take the form of the following resolution:

*RESOLVED, that the Amended Bylaws of The Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston, copies of which have been made available to the Congregation for review and consideration, are hereby adopted.*

*RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Session or their designee is authorized and directed to take any action necessary to effectuate the foregoing resolution, including, but not limited to, placing the certified copy of the Amended Bylaws in the minute book of the Corporation, and keeping a copy at the principal executive office of the Corporation, and any other action required by law.*

This motion received a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Session and will be presented to the congregation at the congregational meeting on September 25, 2016.

**Item 5: Nomination of Jenny Gottschalk and Debbie Kaplan to stand for election to Grace Presbyterian Endowment Fund Trustee Class of 2019**

Resolution:

WHEREAS the Grace Presbyterian Endowment Fund Board of Trustees has recommended the nomination of Jenny Gottschalk and Debbie Kaplan to stand for election to the office of Grace Presbyterian Endowment Fund Trustee Class of 2019.

It is therefore RESOLVED that Jenny Gottschalk and Debbie Kaplan are nominated for election to the office of Grace Presbyterian Endowment Fund Trustee Class of 2019 at the election to be held at the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting.

This motion was approved by Session.

**Item 6: Nomination of candidates to stand for election to position as at-large member of the Church Officer Nominating Committee Class of 2019**

Resolution:

RESOLVE that Shirley Kreig and Janet Roberts be nominated to stand for election to the position of at-large member Church Officer Nominating Committee Class of 2019 at the election to be held at the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting.

This motion was approved by Session.

**Item 7: Ratification of Grace School Committee approval to purchase two 29-passenger buses**

Resolution:

WHEREAS the Grace School Committee has approved the purchase of two 29-passenger buses from Carpenter Bus Sales for approximately \$180,000 to be funded from the monies collected at the Grace School Parent's Club Gala and Annual Fund Drive.

WHEREAS the Grace School Committee has requested that the Grace Session ratify the School Committee's approval.

Therefore it is RESOLVED that the Grace Session hereby ratifies and approves the Grace School Committee's approval of the purchase of said buses.

This motion was approved by Session.

Session was informed of the upcoming events:

1. National ECO Meeting: January 24 – 26, 2017 in Greenville, SC
2. Congregational Meeting: September 25, 2016, 10:05a.m.
3. Food for Thought (FIT report, repeat): September 28, 2016 (9:30 a.m.)
4. Church Officer Stewardship Dinner: Sunday, October 23, 2016
5. ECO Presbytery of TX & LA Meeting:  
Friday, November 11 (1pm) – Saturday, November 12, 2016 (noon)

**CLOSING**

There was a motion to close, a second and the motion passed. Session was closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Kaplan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Kaplan  
Clerk